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Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe / SWiPE

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information

LIFE19 GIE/BG/000846



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Main information:

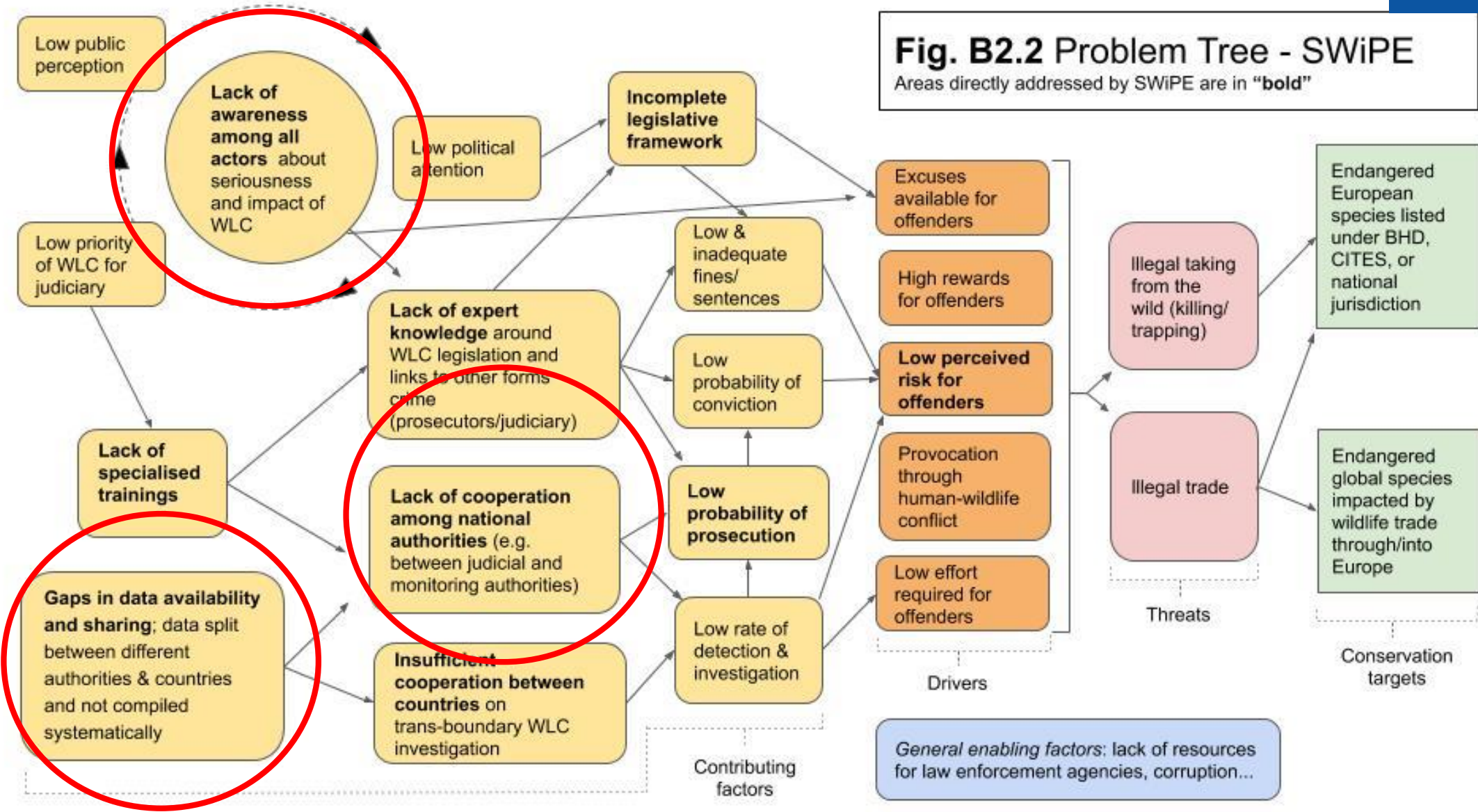
Territorial scope (11): Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Spain, Italy

Start date: 01/09/2020

End date: 31/08/2023

Leading partner: WWF Bulgaria

Associated beneficiaries (12): State Attorney's Office of the Republic Of Croatia, Flora & Fauna International, Judicial Academy Croatia, WWF Adria in Serbia, WWF Adria, WWF Spain, WWF Hungary, WWF Italy, WWF Poland, WWF Romania, WWF Slovakia, WWF Ukraine



Challenges in the Carpathians :

Gaps in data availability and sharing: Due to its nature, the extent of WLC remains unknown, but there are indications of many cases remaining undetected and unreported. Often information is split between different national authorities responsible for e.g. fishing or hunting, various police forces, veterinary inspections or customs without proper coordination. Many countries in Eastern Europe show a lower level of engagement in available EU wide databases such as EU-TWIX or ENPEs case law database. All this hampers cooperation, learning, risk assessments and improved enforcement.

Therefore the project concentrates its efforts on cases in EU Member States with considerable gaps in wildlife crime prosecution (e.g. HU, PL, RO, SK) and those with some good practice to share (IT, ES) as well as UA, BiH and SR - countries that are an important source and transit points for trafficked wildlife and host populations of protected species that expand across the EU borders.



Actions:

Issue 1: Data Availability & Sharing

Objective 1 delivers *a robust and reliable evidence base on European Wildlife Crime in 11 target countries creating a critical improvement in access to information, enabling comparison of data across Europe. (Actions B1-B4).*

B1-B3: Baseline data (National and European)

B4: Wildlife Crime Portal

Issue 2: Knowledge & Capacity

Objective 2 ensures that By 2023, significantly increased awareness, knowledge and capacity of 300 wildlife crime professionals (prosecutors and experts from enforcement agencies) in 11 target countries, is underpinned by a supportive policy environment, and results in better national and cross-border governance in relation to WLC investigation and prosecution. *(Actions B5-B8).*

B5: European Workshop

B6: National trainings x 11

B7: Advocacy

B8: Eight pilot cases

Objective 3 *Efficient communication of project actions and outputs promotes engagement of 10 million European citizens and key target technical audiences, supporting pan-European replication. (Actions B9, D1-D2).*

B9: Replication & Transfer

D1: Public Awareness & Dissemination

D2: Networking and Dissemination to Expert Audiences



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Expected results:

Overall Expected Result: The number of investigated and reported wildlife crime cases proceeding to trial has increased by at least 25% due to improved expertise as well as better interagency and cross-border cooperation of responsible authorities.

Expected Result 1: At least 50 European actors in the WLC prosecution chain, including prosecutors, enforcement agencies and NGOs representing 11 focal countries reaffirm commitment to strategic cooperation.

Expected Result 2: In order to establish a baseline and inform policy advocacy, intelligence on WLC from 11 countries has been gathered and analysed in participatory manner, delivering facts on the number and type of investigations and prosecutions, reasons for non-prosecution, and gaps in current practices.



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Expected results (cont.):

Expected Result 3: An effective Europe-wide internet-based information portal has been set up, facilitating the sharing of information, being visited annually by minimum 1000 representatives of investigation and prosecution agencies and other specialists on WLC, and whose maintenance is ensured for at least 5 years after project end.

Expected Result 4: Out of 600 experts trained, 300 prosecutors and representatives of enforcement agencies in 11 countries have significantly increasing their level of knowledge and understanding of the impact of WLC on protected species populations, its links to other criminal activities, and ways of successfully fighting it.

Expected Result 5: 10 Million citizens reached, and 25 exemplary cases of verdicts have been communicated to the general public in order to change the sense of impunity and low risk.

Expected Result 6: Effective project management, supported by robust monitoring and evaluation ensures delivery of objectives and sustainability of project outcomes.

Policy implications:

EU Level: Contribution to the implementation of international conventions such as CITES, CBD, Bern, EU Directives and Action Plans and the European Green Deal.

i) New or possibly revised EU policies, including EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, the 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EMPACT policy cycle, the Environmental Crime Directive, and Environmental Compliance Assurance

ii) Priorities arising from the outcomes of the national studies and the European report

iii) Establishing an online information portal for easy access to a wide range of information and data on WLC

iv) Supporting the 7th Environment Action Programme of the EC

Global level: The project contributes to UN Resolution “Tackling the Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife”, SDGs 14 and 15 (e.g. target 15.7) and the 2018 London Declaration.





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Thank you for your attention!

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